

obesity is only a recent problem. Other nations that don't have obesity problems provide subsidies to their farmers to produce many of the same commodities grown in the U.S. The European Union, for example, doles out six times the subsidies that we do, yet obesity is less of a problem in the EU than here in America. Federal support is not causing drastically higher levels of production, as some suggest. In fact, America produced more wheat 20 years ago than today. Corn harvested for human consumption has only seen moderate increases from 10 years earlier. And soybeans—another commodity unfairly linked to obesity—experienced supply issues over the past year. According to USDA consumption statistics, Americans consume much less wheat than consumers in other countries that don't suffer widespread obesity problems. Data from the Centers for Disease Control indicate that in the past 20 years, the calorie intake of American kids has risen only about 1 percent, an increase that's in keeping with their increased heights. The big change is that they now get 13 percent less exercise.

Bottom line: America needs farmers. And farmers need a strong Federal farm policy.

America's farmers deserve our praise. They deserve our thanks. What they don't deserve is to be blamed for America's obesity.

#### COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF A NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO COMMUNITY ACT OF 2004

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, before the Memorial Day recess, I joined with Senators HATCH, BINGAMAN, and HUTCHISON in introducing the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Museum of the American Latino Community Act of 2004.

This legislation would create a national commission to study and plan for a National Museum of the American Latino, possibly in Washington, DC. Congressman XAVIER BECERRA and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have sponsored companion legislation in the House.

Throughout our Nation's history, Latinos have enriched our culture and economy, and contributed to our national defense. In every American war and conflict, Latinos have served honorably next to their fellow Americans. It is time for our Nation's history and public institutions to fully recognize and celebrate our Latino community.

Though Latinos have been the largest ethnic minority group in California for some time, the Census Bureau recently reported that Latinos are now the largest minority group in the country and have grown in population in every region. As of July 2002, there were 38.8 million Latinos in the United States. One out of every three of these Latinos is under the age of 18. Also, the

southern states other than Texas have seen the population of Latinos double between 1990 and 2000. The size, youth, and growth of this population ensure that American Latinos will continue to play a critical role in every region of the country and in every aspect of American life. As a result, a greater understanding of this population and its history will benefit all Americans.

The American Latino experience in the United States has a history as long as the Nation is old. From families with Puerto Rican and Dominican origins in New York to those with Cuban blood in Miami to the giant Mexican American and Central American communities in California and numerous other communities in every region of the country—American Latinos share a host of common values and similar experiences. A National Museum of the American Latino would help the larger American family celebrate this community's history and diversity.

The Smithsonian Institution is the world's largest museum and research complex, with 16 museums in the District of Columbia and New York City. The Smithsonian Institution museums, especially those on the National Mall, play a unique and important role in educating visitors to the Nation's capital about America's history, arts, and culture. The American people and international visitors recognize the Smithsonian Institution as the premier American museum, representing the vast diversity of cultural history of the United States. It is worth examining the potential for adding a National Museum of the American Latino to the Smithsonian family.

After extensive dialogue, conferences, and collaboration among educators, scholars, and community leaders as well as museums, universities, cultural, and public institutions, a task force appointed to examine the Smithsonian Institution's representation of American Latinos in its permanent exhibits and other public programs published "Willful Neglect: The Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Latinos" in May 1994 and "Toward a Shared Vision: U.S. Latinos and the Smithsonian Institution" in October 1997. The reports indicate that the Smithsonian historically had a poor record of representing Latinos. This criticism led to the creation of the Smithsonian's Center for Latino Initiatives in 1998.

The Center for Latino Initiatives has increased the profile of Latino arts and culture and deserves credit for promoting diversity and understanding of American Latino culture among the Smithsonian's visitors. The Center's short history has shown that American Latino exhibits and programs are well received by the public and by the Latino community, which benefits from having some representation at the Smithsonian. Still, the level of representation at the Smithsonian of the Latino community is far from where it should be given the American Latino

history, demography, and contributions to the American cultural landscape.

I thank Senators HATCH, BINGAMAN, and HUTCHISON for joining with me in introducing this bill. I look forward to working with them to pass this legislation, and I encourage all my colleagues to join us in this effort.

#### ROMA STILL WAITING FOR THEIR "BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION"

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, 2 years ago, the United States Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, held its third hearing on the human rights problems faced by Roma. At that time, we gave particular attention to the barriers Roma face in the field of education. As the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities said in his very helpful report on Roma in OSCE region, "exclusion of Roma extends to every sphere of social life, perhaps nowhere with more far-reaching and harmful effect than in respect of schooling."

In other words, ensuring equal access for Roma in the fields of education is an essential element for their integration in other areas of life. The World Bank and United Nations Development Program have also emphasized, in their reports, that integration in education is an essential ingredient for improving the overall conditions in which Roma live.

Last month, as our own country was commemorating the Supreme Court's historic decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the European Roma Rights Center issued a report entitled "Stigmata: Segregated Schooling of Roma in Central and Eastern Europe." This report evaluates practices and policies in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, and Slovakia and describes the most common ways of segregating Romani children from non-Roma: channeling Roma into so-called "special schools" for children with developmental disabilities; the de facto segregation that goes hand-in-hand with Romani ghettos; having mixed population schools where Romani children are segregated into all-Romani classes; and the refusal of some local authorities to enroll Romani children in mainstream schools.

The European Roma Rights Center report concludes that, unfortunately, "with the exception of Hungary, concrete government action aimed at desegregating the school system has not been initiated to date." It is surely not a coincidence that Hungary is also the only country in Europe where the mainstream political parties have started to compete for the Romani vote—both developments which reflect meaningful steps towards the real integration of Roma in that country.

As the European Roma Rights Center notes, segregated schooling is the result of many factors which conspire together—not the least of which is the